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Ray Meetings

HSCA
77-0007/45

10 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Sprague

1. Lyle Miller and I met with Mr. Sprague this afternoon for about an hour and 45 minutes after our scheduled time. My personal reaction towards him was very positive and his statements of concern to work with us were convincing. Lyle Miller emphasized the importance of the earliest possible selection of a professional security officer so we can discuss a number of kinds of arrangements that are important.

2. Mr. Sprague plans to have two teams, one each for the Kennedy and King assassinations, with 15 lawyers and 25 investigators on each team. He does not intend to flood us and is speaking more in terms of a small number coming to the Agency some time after the first of the year to commence reading. He understands that we need to know his plan of approach and how it will impact on us so we can posture ourselves accordingly. We made it clear that otherwise our responses may leave something to be desired. As he does not have his budget he said that there was some uncertainty yet and alluded jokingly to the possibility that if there is insufficient support someone else would be directing the investigation.

3. Mr. Sprague has two requests now. The first probably has to do with his budget request. He would like to have us review our holdings on Martin Luther King in toto; if this is a manageable collection and if we could draw them together he would like it done soon. It was our impression, although he said nothing directly on the point, that this may relate to support from the Black Caucus on his budget request. He also expressed interest in anything we have on Ray, Reverend King's murderer. It is suggested that proper instructions go to the four directorates at once to see what we have and what we can do.

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4. Mr. Sprague responded positively to our discussion of the research problem in the Agency. We offered to show him the various files that we thought would be of primary interest to him and to expose him to some of the larger filing systems to which his research may lead him. In discussing time he settled on Tuesday afternoon and will probably bring a couple of people with him. The details will be completed by Lyle Miller.

5. Lyle took notes and probably will write a more complete memorandum on the meeting. It is suggested that John Leader contact Phil Fendig and arrange for Bill Sturbitts of LA Division and Bob Wall/Russ Holmes of CI Staff to talk with them about their files as well as arrange a tour through RI. It is also suggested that the Office of Security have Ray Reardon give a briefing on his files and a walk-through of the Office of Security system. It is also suggested that a request on the King/Ray question be circulated on a priority basis.

/s/ S. D. Breckinridge

S. D. Breckinridge

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